

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicant canceled claims 1-17, and added new claims 18-69.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above amendment upon initial examination and consideration on the merits of the present application.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite the prosecution.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required,

including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account

50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR**

EXTENSION OF TIME in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Paragraph [0001] has been amended as follows:

-- The present invention relates to security paper and security items in general, i.e., items whose counterfeiting is to be prevented or made difficult by one or more security elements, **where the security elements have at least one photoluminescent segment.** The present invention also relates to a method of producing such security items as well as a method of using same. --

Paragraph [0004] has been amended as follows:

-- However, one serious disadvantage of all these known security elements is that either the characteristic authenticity features are relatively difficult for a layperson to discern or they require complex equipment for detection, or on the other hand, an easily detectable authenticity feature may be counterfeited relatively easily. However, it is in the nature of the matter that security items are often replaced by newer products with newer security elements after a comparatively short period of time, in particular to prevent counterfeiting and other forms of abuse. Therefore, there has been an urgent need for new, secure and easily discernible security elements for security papers and for security items in general. ~~[Therefore, one]~~

One solution that is interesting in this regard has already been described in International Patent Application WO-A-98 01817, where photoluminescence polarizers, where the emitted luminescence light is linearly polarized, are used as security elements for security objects. When this light is observed through a polarizer and the polarizer is rotated, the result for the observer is a light-dark effect because of the luminescence light which is either transmitted or not transmitted through the polarizer, depending on the rotational position. Although U.S. Patent Application 5,284,364 uses polarizers for security purposes, they are "ordinary" polarizers such as $\lambda/2$ layers and are not photoluminescence polarizers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One object of the present invention is to eliminate the above-mentioned disadvantages of the previously known security elements and to create security papers and other security items which are characterized by secure and easily discernible security elements. Another object of the ~~[present]~~ invention is to create security papers and other security items whose identification is permitted or facilitated by such security elements or whose authenticity or validity is identified by such security elements. Additional objects of the present invention include the development of a method for producing these security items as well as the use thereof. ~~[These objects are achieved according to the present invention by the fact that security elements having at least one photoluminescent segment characterized by a linearly polarized photoluminescence and/or~~

~~linearly polarized absorption are used.]~~ The solution to these objects is characterized in the
independent claims. --

In the Claims:

Claims 1-17 have been canceled and new claims 18-69 have been added.

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